

# Hillview



## THEN & NOW

people, place and community

We once were children playing freely in the open field beside the Slang River. Ours was and is a one-in-a-million neighbourhood—a lovely place to grow up.

This pamphlet reminds me. So many have come since the early 1970s. Here you can read a selection of memories—a snippet of the lives lived on Hillview Estate.



FROM NANCY TO PHYLLIS

This booklet is a result of generous people who shared their memories. Thanks to them and to Bernadette Jackson, Suzanne Guerrine. Sinéad Jones and the Hillview Family Resource Centre; and to Mary White from dlr. Any mistakes or errors belong to Ed Carroll (Blue Drum).

## *In the beginning*

Ballinteer Active Retirement Association published, A Local History of the Neighbourhood of Ballinteer.

*"The Dublin Co. Co. developed the Hillview estate in the late 1960s. It is located between the Millrace and Meadow Grove in the townland of Upper Churchtown.*

*The architects were Arthur Swift and Partners, of London and Dublin. The estate was completed in 1972. The contractors were Ardglass Ltd, and associate of John Sisk and Co. Originally this consisted of a mixture of housing and blocks of apartments. The blocks of apartments were demolished in 2000s." (p.301)*

People recalled:

- Mr Luby
- Arthur's van
- Mr. Whippy
- Stoner Bridge
- Summer day trips
- Slang river
- Joan Kelly - bingo caller
- Resource centre in the flats

# A GIFT



Phyllis and Joe Jennings came up from Mulvey Park in Dundrum and recall, "all the people – either the man or woman or both – were local to the area. Some came down from the mountains – from Kilmacanogue and

My best friend, over the road, was Nancy Jackson who died. She was the best – the salt of the earth. I was a friend to her for over forty years. She'd always have everyone in; it didn't matter who who were- for a cup of tea.

She'd share her dinner with you. She used to make brown bread and soda bread. And every one got a bit. She and Richie her husband who came from Ballycorris, would take everyone in the car and go camping to Wicklow – all the children – she was that sort of person. That's the way it was with them. During these long nights we'd sit in her front garden and yapp about everything. And the world was going by and what we talked about I can't remember. I know you'd never get a friend like her again. I remember when my son was having the spina bifida operations I would be in Temple Street hospital all night and Nancy would come in at eight in the morning and let me go home. Then Richie would go in at two and Debbie or Diane, their girls would go in with him and let Nancy go home. Until it was time for me to go back in again. I tell you, where would you get it! Here in Hillview, there were families that were very good to me around here and I suppose I was good to them. Where would you get it? Do you know what I mean?"



# WE ALL DIG-IN

Stella and Jackie Sheridan moved-in from Highfield Park, Dundrum where they lived his parents. Stella came from Rathfarnham.

"When we first moved-in the thing I remember is muck, muck, muck. The roadway into the estate was lovely but around the flats was dreadful. Then, the playground arrived and it was the best thing ever because the children had the best time ever and they weren't coming home with mucky boots. I can still hear the sound of the Mr. Whippy van, coming in every day, and the shop van that came over from Tallaght that was stationed at the flats.

Seven of us on the road started Green Trees Pitch and Putt. Toni Fitzgerald was Chairwoman and we joined-up with the Tower Pitch and Putt Mens Committee. It was in the Pitch and Putt Union that has mixed-fours and Leinster competitions we wanted to play. There was lipstick and nail polish on the golf balls!

To get to the course we had to cross the river and I remember so well the morning that Toni fell into the river and we only found her because a dog was barking. We all just laughed and laughed. Sadly, the course got sold.



"YOU'D NEVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE OUR NEIGHBOURS WE."

"One of the hardest moments was to lose my husband, Jackie in the first months of COVID. There were only ten of us allowed at the funeral. The neighbours lined the road from with candles, balloons, flowers and everything; I just couldn't believe it. It meant so much to me. It's a one in a million community.

I had a neighbour, and she would always sit in the front seat of my car and my kids could never get in! She'd say, No! this is my seat! I tried to teach her how to drive but there was no way; her feet would just not work."

# IT'S ALL CONNECTED



Peter Checkley had a book called *Changing Faces* published locally in Dundrum by local author J. Nolan when I first met him. Hillview is linked to Dundrum train station, the Bottletowers, and locals Padraig Pearse, the mechanic, Miss Laetitia Overend, and her Rolls Royce. All the places and people with some connection or friends of his 'old man'.

"When Covid came, my father and mother ended up in St James Hospital, and later in a nursing home together - *what is what is, what is what is*. We had all lived in the flats with my mother coming from Ballinteer and father from Dundrum.

"We were all on the third floor balcony looking out over all these lovely fields. I have great neighbours here and great friends too. The old man was telling me that his father had a horse and cart and delivered beer barrels out to Barnacullia.

We were all on the third floor balcony looking out over all these lovely fields. We'd wonder off up the river under the stone bridge and off up to Marley Park and St Enda's. My father was a panel beater and had worked in the Brittain Group who assembled the Mini at Portobello. He and my mother came back from England where he worked with locomotives in Swindon. When I left school I worked with the Council in Marley Park.

I recall Rosemount Celtic where my great grandfather played. My mam worked for a landlord in Sweetmount, earning a pound for a morning of work. What I got from my old man is a love for history: old things, old houses. I can still see in my dreams the red brick Gate Lodge that was once Dundrum Castle."



# HELPING HANDS

Pat Graydon moved into the flats with four children from Crumlin. We'd been on the housing list and lived over the dry cleaners in Crumlin village. We only had the front two-rooms; a living room come kitchen and a bedroom. We'd have to wait for the shop to open to be able to hangout the washing and, then, make sure to be home before the shop closed to take it in.

The thing we remember is that flats were big. We lived there for 19 months. Then we moved to the houses, nearer to each other in many ways. The bedrooms in the flats were much bigger!

It was a great place to grow up for our kids and there was such freedom. We had the Slang river where our kids liked to hang-out.

I remember the morning my eldest daughter, Sandra, made her Holy Communion. I came home straight after the church because her dad was out working. She came too and went straight down to the river. When I looked out from the window, I could see them all, with her there floating on aeroboard, in her communion dress, getting a treat for her communion from the other kids. I felt like showing her the brush head! I had to put her standing in the bath fully clothed, wash her dress and get a hair dryer to dry the end of it.



YOU'D NEVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE THE NEIGHBOURS WE HAD IN HILLVIEW."

We'd pay seven schillings and six pence for our kids to get to Dundrum for school. We arranged a school bus, run by Furlong Coaches, to take them down.

We had two lovely playgrounds and the mother's would bring out a cup of coffee and sit and chat while keeping an eye that no one fell. We organised a day-trip on a Tuesday to Donabate, Malahide or Bray.

In the early years there was a playgroup for the little kids and we'd send the grandchildren down to Debbie and Diane Jackson – and the little ones loved it. I

# GREAT FRIENDS



"THE DAY WE CAME TO THE FLATS WAS THE HAPPIEST DAY."

We moved from up the hill in Barnacullia. I was in stone cutting up in the quarries at the Blue Lion pub. I've done the fire place in our house in Barnacullia stone! It was a good old time too. We hadn't much but we seemed to be happy. We were living in an old cottage up there that was damp, with no toilet and no water and we were glad to get out of it. The day we came into the flats was the happiest day. It was a great day.

Ciss and Noel Malone first met in England where they worked for years. Noel worked on Liverpool Cathedral. Sixty-four years ago, we met on a dancehall near Camden Town! with the Council in Marley Park on grounds for a few years.

We came to the flats in 1972 and moved into the house in 1973. They were sticking them together! The flats were lovely. They were brand new, heating under the floor and lino everywhere.

We moved into the second floor on the last block. Ours was the last one to take down and I went over to see it and it was sad. We moved into the house in November and we a big blower in the sitting room and every time you would put it on the lampshade would fly around! One of the heaters actually blew up and then they took them out!



# THAT'S AMORE

Anne met her husband, Paddy McCarthy on the dancehall at the back of Orchard Lane, Blackrock. *That's Amore* was our first dance. I came from Wicklow and we lived in Orchard Cottages, Blackrock. To qualify for a house you had to have three children.

So when we moved it was great to get a big space as where we came from was very damp and we had three children. Still I thought, how am I going to fill this space. And when I came over here to look at it, I thought it was like a concrete jungle without a single tree or anything. But when I got to know the people and they got to know us I wouldn't live anywhere else ever. It was and still is the best little community in the Southside of Dublin. Money couldn't buy what we have here. My family, who came from Wicklow, couldn't believe that we had a *country* community in a Dublin housing estate. So my initial impression changed! We came in October 1973. The flats were still there as some people never wanted to leave them. We got our house because a woman had a death in her family and did not want to leave the flats.

We moved into bare bones design with no plaster on the walls and an unhealthy air heating that we couldn't afford it.



"IT'S STILL THE BEST LITTLE COMMUNITY- YOU'D WANT TO BOTTLE THEM"

"So we had to turn it off and get a Superser. It sounds so Dickensian now but we would log the Superser up to wash the children in the bathroom, to keep them warm up there, and then log it back down to the sitting room.

We lost Kevin when he was 18 years of age and people just came in and left bedclothes and duvets because they knew I had a big family from Wicklow. People would just come to the door and say, just pass that in to the family and you could end up with a banquet of food. They were unbelievably generous. It was thirty years ago when we lost Kevin but sadly, we've lost a lot of young people since.

# DEAR SAMMY



## GREAT FRIENDS

Gay Quinn lived in Nathy's House flats in Churchtown, across from the Bottle Tower. "My husband, Sammy came from Patrick Doyle Road which was also called Columbanus where Red Hurley lived too. I always think of my mother's house in Farrenboley cottages where we had a very big garden with apple and pear trees, and pigs! In Hillview, I could not believe that I could come down the steps in the morning and go out into the back garden surrounded by fields."

"Sammy's father visited once and said, 'I don't know how you would live up here, with no lights and no nothing'. But for me, it was great For thirty-five years Sammy worked in Rowntree-Mackintosh factory. He ended up out of work for a year. During the 1980s there were many redundancies in factories like paper mills. It was Larry Roche, Stephen Roche's father, who asked him if he'd go and work in Hallmarks for two weeks holidays. So he said, 'Yeah', and he ended up getting ten years. I started working at fourteen years in Smurfits, Clonskeagh and then I went to work in Brown and Nolans. I got married but they didn't take back married women in those days! My favourite place are the fields where Sammy and I 'd go for walks all the time.

It was just a year ago that we were going out for a walk when Sammy said to me I feel dizzy and I can't breathe. He was taken to James Street where he passed away. I put the grave stone on his grave last Christmas. My daughter or son often take me up to see him in Kilmashogue."



# WE CARE



Peggy Madsen Guerrine moved out 'to the 'country' with her husband and children, Tara and James. "Hillview was hills, green fields and six blocks of sparkling white flats.

In the evenings all of us mothers would go for a walk through the fields to Marley Park. We'd sit on the walls and just play skipping. These were the happiest times. We cared, and this is how we became lifelong friends."

"I moved, early in 1973, to a house. The Council decided that everyone who had 3 children could get one. I had two kids and I was sure that all the houses had been given out. But Kathleen Dargan told me that she saw my name was on the list! It was a big shock and we only heard afterwards that someone given number 19 did not want it! So thank you, whoever you were who turned it down."

# WISE OWLS

**Joe Jennings** is in his eighties, and is still a milkman and goes to work.

"I worked in HB before it was Premier Dairies and when there were horse and carts. They built the ice cream factory out where the horse and carts used to be. Then, the ice cream and the dairies were all one. The company was founded in 1926 as Hughes Brothers at Hazelbrook Farm in Churchtown. In 1973 it became part of Unilever. Today, I go to Glanbia Centre in Fonthill to collect and deliver milk to factories in Sandyford."

## **The Ballinteer Active Retirement Association** publication notes

"The apartments were demolished in the 2000s. Frank and Kay Dargan were the first to move into the flats. A residents association was formed in 1971. Hillview Ladies Club was established in 1977 to help mother on the estate. Una Scanlan was its first president followed later by Anne Finney. The resident's association became dormant. Pat Canavan, with others, formed a new association in 1995. They formed a community association and attracted funds to develop the area as a Resource Centre. The Council provided a couple of flats as a centre in 1997."



"GREAT NEIGHBOURS IS ALL I CAN SAY, FABULOUS NEIGHBOURS"

**Hilda Shorten** has a great mind for dates! "I am here since the estate opened on the 22nd of June 1972 - fifty-one years ago. The first block of flats were opened in January of 1972. I got this house on the 15th of December 1973. I had already went into to look at the one I got. The only thing I missed was the underfloor heating.

My husband came from Mulvey Park and I came from Ringsend. When St. Ann's Parish was beginning I got a knock on my door one day and a priest who married us was now setting up our local Parish. It was a big surprise. I am here now living close to three neighbours that are also here fifty-one years!



# LIFE LONG



**Patrick Dunbar** and **Leo Davey** are members of the Ballinteer Men's Shed. Patrick and his wife, moved from a flat in the Sandyford Road. Since he worked on buildings all his life he recalls that the flats and the houses were part of a trend in new building for pre fabrication. It was built in sections. At that time high-rise were viewed as the way of the future! They lasted less than 2 years before people moved to the houses.

The initial name, Clark House, did not go down well. A petition was started by the neighborhood to change the name. Hillview was both the suggested and eventually accepted name, and it may have been connected to Lee Dunne's Goodbye to the Hill!





# PHOTOS



Comhairle Contae County Council



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